

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the personal interview that was had with Examiners Tran and Hsu on 12/15/2003, as summarized in the Interview Summary that was prepared at the conclusion of the interview. A copy of the Interview Summary was handed to the undersigned and is believed to have been made a part of the permanent record.

Claims 1-2

Based on the discussion that was had during the interview, applicants believe it to be the examiners' view that claim 1 could be found to read on Borella because Borella's router 26 could be deemed to be in the public network. Given such a reading of Borella, it was asserted by the examiners that claim 1's recitation that the source address is "on said public network" would be anticipated by the addresses that are communicated from Borella's PC, printer, telephone, etc. to router 26.

Given the fact that router 26 is clearly on the customer premises, applicants do agree that addresses that are supplied in packets to router 26 by the various equipments connected to Borella's local network can be said to be addresses "on said public network" as claim 1 requires. However, applicants indicated in the interview that applicants would amend claim 1 to recite that the packets received from the calling party are received "over an access network," meaning a network (such as a local loop or the equivalent) that connects customer premises to, for example, a service provider. See, for example, access network 150 in applicants' FIG. 1. It was understood by the undersigned that the examiners agreed that such an amendment would preclude reading claim 1 on Borella.

Indeed, claim 1 has now been amended in that way. Certain recitations previously appearing in the preamble have been canceled and now appear in a "receiving" recitation added to claim 1 at lines 5-7. Included in the newly added

language is the recitation at line 5 that packets originating from the calling party are received “over an access network.” It is therefore submitted that claim 1 now clearly distinguishes the invention from any possible interpretation of Borella.

It was additionally indicated by the examiners that even with the foregoing amendment having been made, claim 1 might also be found to read on a prior art communication arrangement in which addresses were encrypted, it being the examiners’ view that such encryption would anticipate the translating functionality called for in the claim.

No specific piece of prior art was mentioned in the discussion in this regard. It is therefore difficult for applicants to comment in detail on how claim 1 might or might not read on same. Applicants do note, however, that claim 1 specifically limits the invention to the public network context. Addresses received from a customer that a public network must act on could not be encrypted by the customer without the public network having the ability to decrypt the addresses. As is well known, public networks do not have any such capability.

Claim 1 has nonetheless been further amended at lines 6-7 to indicate that the source address has a predetermined format—which is illustratively the standard IP address format—and at lines 8-9 to indicate that the source address is translated into a translated source address “having said predetermined format.” As is well known, encryption algorithms undertake to give no hint as to the content of the clear text that was subject to the encryption. Therefore there is no basis to believe that a person skilled in the art, even if encrypting the source address, would have done so in such a way that the encrypted address would be in the same format, e.g., IP address format, as the unencrypted address. To do so would give a clue as to the content, thereby compromising encryption security. Thus amended claim 1 distinguishes the invention from prior art of the type hypothesized by the examiners during the interview.

Claim 2 introduces limitations relative to the translation of a destination address contained in the received packets. Similar to what was done in claim 1 relative to the source address, claim 2 has been amended to recite that the destination address has the

aforementioned predetermined format and that the translated destination address is in that same format—again distinguishing the invention from the encryption prior art suggested during the interview.

Claim 2 has also been amended to correct a minor error—specifically the addition of the word “said” in line 1.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of amended claims 1 and 2 is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-11

As indicated in the Interview Summary, the examiners were of the view that claim 3 distinguishes the invention from the cited prior art. Applicants understand that the specific basis for that view to be the fact that claim 3 recites a double translation. For example, claim 3 recites that a first source address is translated into a first global address (line 3) and the first global address is translated into a second source address (line 11). Claim 3 also sets forth a similar “double translation” vis-à-vis the recited destination address—specifically a first destination address is translated into a second global address (line 5) and the second global address is translated into a second destination address (line 13). Indeed, applicants agree that the double translation called for in claim 3 clearly distinguishes the invention from the prior art.

Allowance of claim 3 and its dependent claims 4-11 is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 23-29 and 37-46

Claims 23-29 and 37-46 were not explicitly discussed in the interview. However, these claims also incorporate the aforementioned double translation concept. It is thus submitted that these claims, like claims 3-11, are patentable.

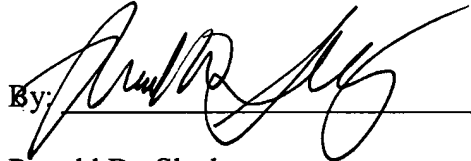
Minor Amendment Made To Claim 42

In the course of preparing this amendment applicants noticed minor grammatical errors in claim 42. This claim has been amended to correct those errors.

Reconsideration and passage of the application to issue are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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